Foreign assistance for renovation of monuments

2970. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the historical monuments which are being renovated/maintained with foreign assistance along with the details of foreign agencies which have given assistance, State-wise; and

(b) what are the details of the amount of foreign assistance received for renovation/ conservation of historical monuments of Himachal Pradesh, monument-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The details of projects of conservation, restoration of monuments with foreign assistance/collaboration are as under:

1. Government of India has obtained loan-assistance of 901 million Yen from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation, Japan for Phase-II of the project for Conservation and Tourism Development of Ajanta-Ellora Region in Maharashtra. This is an integrated programme of structural conservation, chemical preservation and environmental development of Ajanta, Ellora, Pitalkhora and Aurangabad Caves, Daulatabad Fort, Bibi-ka-Maqbara, Patnadevi Temple and Lonar group of temples.

2. A Technical Cooperation Project between the Italian Cultural Ministry and ASI for the Conservation of Mural Paintings of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra is in progress.

3. World Monument Fund has deposited a matching grant of US $ 4,39,000 for the Restoration and Conservation of Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan.

4. Financial assistance has been provided by UNESCO for conservation of the Buddhist group of monuments at Sanchi and Satdhara in Madhya Pradesh.

5. A Technical Collaboration Project between ASI and M/s Janssen Pharmaceutica, Belgium for bio deterioration research for Tipu Sultan Place in Srirangapattana and monuments of Hampi in Karnataka is in progress.

(b) No foreign assistance has been received for conservation of historical monuments of Himachal Pradesh.

Braj Bhoomi in Rajasthan

2971. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the part of Braj Bhoomi, associated with Lord Krishna falling in Rajasthan has been found "destroyed" due to rampant and illegal mining there;

(b) if so, whether the representations to this effect has been received from Members of Parliament, NRIs, prominent citizens etc; and

(c) what action has been taken to refurbish the "destroyed" portion to maintain sanctity of Braj Bhoomi as million of people both in India and abroad are feeling hurt by this unfortunate happening?